

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendments filed on 11/17/2009 have been entered. Following the entry of the amendment, claims 2-20 are cancelled and claims 1 and 21-31 are currently pending in the application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

- a. In line 21 of claim 1, remove "□" and insert therefore —s—.
- b. In line 5 of claim 31, remove "□" and insert therefore —s—.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1 and 21-31 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

- 4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
- 5. The amendments filed 11/17/2009 specify that the pair of spaced apart substantially parallel side wall members which comprises the U-shaped retaining member has a gap located between the parallel side members. Furthermore, the amendments recite the limitation of a front crosspiece which extends across the gap and a bridge which extends widthwise across the gap.

6. These limitations are supported for example in Figure 2 of the specification.

Furthermore, these limitations overcome the previous art of record and further search does not produce art that teach or fairly suggest the apparatus of the device as recited in the newly amended claim 1.

7. Dragisic et al. (U.S. Patent 5,776,053) disclose a laryngoscope blade connection (Fig. 10) which has a U-shaped member. The U-shaped member comprises substantially parallel side wall members (30a) and contains a gap located between the parallel side members. However, Dragisic is lacking the front crosspiece and a bridge, both which extend across the gap.

8. Upsher (U.S. Patent 4,437,458) discloses a laryngoscope blade connection (Fig. 35) which contains a U-shaped member with substantially spaced apart parallel side walls (374) and a gap inbetween but does not disclose either a crosspiece or a bridge to extend across the gap.

9. Salerno et al. (U.S. Patent 4,924,855) discloses a laryngoscope blade connection (Fig. 1) which contains a U-shaped member with substantially spaced apart parallel side walls (70). While Salerno discloses that the side walls are connected by a crosspiece, (angled jutting piece which makes slot 72), it is clearly seen that the crosspiece does not extend across the gap (72). Furthermore, there is no motivation to combine Salerno either with Dragisic or Upsher to create a device which had a crosspiece extending across a gap, as doing so would create structural changes that would affect the electrical connections of the light means to the power source of the handle.

10. McMorrow (U.S. Patent Pub. 2005/0234303) discloses a laryngoscope blade connection (Fig.7) which has a pair of spaced apart substantially parallel side wall members (70) with a gap between. Even if McMorrow's device can be said to have a front crosspiece which extends across the gap (where 74 is located) and a bridge extending widthwise across the gap (where 76 is located, in which that interpretation of the reference has to have the inside of the connection piece being hollow in order for the "bridge to be extending across the gap", and it cannot be determined from the drawings or the specification of the reference whether or not the connection of Fig. 7 is completely hollow inside), all those pieces put together do not make it U-shaped. Instead McMorrow's connection is square shaped. There is no motivation to rearrange the pieces so that the connection is U-shaped.

11. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TINA NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)270-1489. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thurs 8:30-6:00.

13. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak can be reached on 571-272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

14. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Linda C Dvorak/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3739

/T. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 3739
2/19/2010